



Process for Developing the State of Delaware Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

**an introduction prepared by the
Institute for Public Administration
University of Delaware**



Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

- **CEDS Guidelines prescribed by EDA**
- **Planning document required by EDA**
- **Develops a strategy for furthering economic development in region**
- **Completed CEDS also required for designation as an Economic Development District**



What Does a CEDS Do?

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

- Analyzes local conditions.
- Identifies problems and opportunities.
- Defines the vision and goals of the community.
- Designs strategies to accomplish goals and identifies projects for implementation.
- Provides process for plan evaluation and updates.



The CEDS Process...

...is intended to “help create jobs, foster more stable and diversified economies, and improve living conditions” for the area in question.



Preparing the CEDS

- CEDS Guidelines provide recommendations for types of community interests to be represented on CEDS committees.
- Committees provide “broad based and diverse community participation.”
- Delaware CEDS process involves three county committees and one state committee.



Adopted Strategies Should...

- **Address the overall economic growth of the region, with emphasis given to economically distressed areas and needs of traditionally underrepresented populations.**
- **Emphasize sustainable development and smart growth.**



Major Elements of a CEDS

1. Description of staffing and organization
2. Detailed analysis of local economy
3. Vision statement for long-term development of region
4. Action plan for achieving desired results
5. Process for evaluating progress towards CEDS goals



1. Staffing and Organization

- Establish participatory planning process to develop CEDS and facilitate implementation.
- State committee will be ongoing and develop strategy updates.
- Staff support will be provided by IPA, DEDO, and OSPC.



2. Economic Analysis

- **Addresses “Where are we now?”**
- **Conducted by UD’s Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research (CADSR)**
- **Includes:**
 - **Background Information**
 - **Issues Covered**



Background Information

- Demographic and socioeconomic data
- Geographic, climatic, environmental, and natural resources profile
- Infrastructure of area
- Overview of major sectors of economy
- Relationship of economy to larger region
- Factors that directly/indirectly affect economic performance



Issues Covered

- State of the regional economy
- External trends and forces
- Partners for economic development
- Resources for economic development



3. Vision Statement

- **Addresses “Where do we want to be?”**
- **Sets forth goals and objectives that maximize the region’s opportunities and minimize the impact of its economic development problems.**
- **Incorporates SWOT analysis, understanding of issues, and review of other studies/plans.**
- **Establishes priorities/ranking of goals.**



4. Action Plan

- Describes “How do we get there?”
- Two parts:
 1. **Prioritization of Programs and Activities—**
The project solicitation survey will provide the process for establishing priorities for implementing projects/programs.
 2. **Implementation Schedule**



Proposed Projects

- **Action Plan will include a list of proposed projects resulting from Project Solicitation Survey.**
- **Local governments and nonprofit partners may submit project proposals.**
- **All project proposals must meet EDA Investment Policy Guidelines.**



5. Evaluation Process

- An evaluation process is required to determine progress made towards achieving adopted goals and vision.
- It includes the development of performance measures.



EDA Approval of a CEDS

- **CEDS documents must be approved by EDA regional office (Philadelphia)**
- **An approved CEDS is a precondition for EDA assistance for:**
 - 1. Public-works and economic-adjustment grants**
 - 2. EDD designation**
 - 3. EDA ongoing planning grants**



Updating a CEDS

- Once the initial CEDS is approved, an updated CEDS must be submitted to EDA for approval every five years.
- Annual updates are also required by EDA to demonstrate progress on strategies.
- The state CEDS committee will have an active, ongoing role in plan updates.

Delaware CEDS

*a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
for the State of Delaware*



For more information...

- EDA's website:

www.doc.gov/eda/pdf/cedsguide.pdf

- EDA's Investment Policy Guidelines:

*[www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/
Inpolguideline.xml](http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Inpolguideline.xml)*